

Florida CS for HB 1007

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

February 25, 2026

**Florida House of Representatives
Commerce Committee**

Re: Opposition to CS/HB 1007 - Data Centers

Dear Chairman Buchanan and members of the Committee:

NetChoice is a trade association of the world's leading online businesses. We are leaders in tech policy in the states, in Washington, DC, in the courts, and in international internet governance organizations.

We ask for your opposition to CS/HB 1007, to avoid foreclosing Florida as a potential state for the large-scale capital investments and the economic and tax benefits that come from hyperscale data centers.

Data centers of NetChoice members Amazon, xAI, Google, Meta and OpenAI enable individuals and businesses to find information, buy and sell, navigate their world, and maintain their memories in messages, emails, documents, photos, and videos. Data centers are the essential production equipment to deliver these services. Moreover, data centers help keep us connected, while creating jobs and significant economic impacts in our communities, as explained in [this 2-minute video](#):



Americans depend on the internet to be educated, informed, stay connected, and get their work done.

Data centers create tech jobs, from construction teams and engineers, to technicians and facility managers. These investments boost the local economy, while ensuring a better online experience for Americans everywhere.

Data centers can be located anywhere in the country. That's why Floridians using cloud storage and computing right now are relying on servers located outside the state, without worrying about capacity or transmission. Given that data centers can be anywhere, they locate *where they are welcomed by local communities and where utilities have power to spare*.

When you consider the economic benefits of construction projects, high-paying tech jobs and new significant property tax relief, many Florida communities would like to attract new large-scale data centers.

However, the legislation before you today (CS/HB 1007) would severely restrict the ability of a data center to locate in Florida, making the state an unwelcome place for the future growth of the infrastructure layer of our digital economy. Large-scale data centers contribute significantly to local taxes and are strong supporters of education and broadband expansion. The jobs created in fields like engineering, technicians, electrical and construction trades earn competitive salaries.

1. Data centers are critical for the economy and national security
2. With a 5-mile radius restriction, this law is effectively a moratorium
3. Data centers are a national priority with support at the highest levels

Data centers are critical for the economy and national security

Modern military and intelligence operations increasingly depend on AI, real-time analytics, and massive data processing. Domestic data centers are essential to training and deploying AI models for defense applications without that work being exposed to foreign intelligence collection.

Much of America's cloud computing industry relies on infrastructure with global footprints, including nodes in countries with adversarial relationships with the U.S. Building domestic capacity reduces the risk of foreign governments cutting off access or inserting backdoors into critical systems during a geopolitical crisis. Having our national security systems on a data center in another country is a bad idea.

Of course, national security is not just military — it is also economic. Maintaining domestic dominance in data infrastructure helps the U.S. stay ahead of China and other rivals in the AI race, which many defense analysts consider the defining technological competition of the 21st century.

PPI's [INVESTMENT HEROES 2025](#) shows *Tech/Internet* as the top sector for US capital investment, with last year's domestic gains being driven overwhelmingly by investment in AI related infrastructure. Each of the top 3 capital investment heroes build data centers (Amazon, Alphabet, and Meta), all together they invested nearly \$141 billion in 2024 – more than energy, telecom, pharma, or manufacturing.¹ This trend in enormous increases in infrastructure investment continues – in states that make long-term data center investment a possibility. In states like Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, Illinois, and Nebraska, data centers have been major drivers of investment.

It is alarming that Florida would retreat from its own economic well being by enacting an effective moratorium against the best economic and national security interests of the country.

¹ Progressive Policy Institute, Investment Heroes 2025, at https://www.progressivepolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/PPI_Investment-Heroes-2025.pdf

Restricts data center locations to the point of being a *de facto* moratorium

Based on the "5-mile buffer" requirement in HB 1007, new data centers would be effectively banned from almost all of Florida's developed land. Because Florida has schools and residential zones distributed throughout its cities and suburbs, a 5-mile circle around every single one leaves very little "open" space for high-load industrial use.

We asked AI tools to create a map of "all areas in Florida 5+ miles from any residential property or school." It was essentially impossible to render a meaningful map, since much of Florida has schools and residential areas. The remaining eligible zones would be very small, scattered patches (mostly in remote rural/wilderness areas like the Everglades, which are of course federally protected) , Big Cypress, certain agricultural lands in central/south Florida, Apalachicola National Forest/Tate's Hell State Forest and the Lake Okeechobee surrounding area.

But another problem looms: even if land were found five miles from homes and schools, that property would also need power grid access and fiber connectivity. Such services are almost always near population centers so those properties are less desirable.

The fact is clear that this legislation is simply an attempt to ban data centers in Florida without having to call it an actual ban.

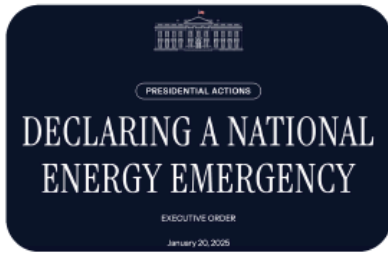
Data centers are a national priority with support at the highest levels

Including in the State of the Union address this week, the President has championed data centers and AI as national priorities. The consistent message from the White House is: ***whoever controls the most powerful AI infrastructure controls the future of economic and military power.*** As is well known, China is building data centers aggressively under state direction. The U.S., then, cannot afford to let private market hesitancy or local regulation slow down the buildout when our geopolitical rival is moving so fast.

Further, data center construction aligns well with President Trump's broader message of economic nationalism. Large-scale domestic data center construction creates construction jobs, manufacturing demand (servers, cooling systems, cabling), and long-term tech operational jobs. President Trump has pointed to Stargate and similar projects as proof that his presidency is bringing investment back to American soil.

As highlighted specifically in the State of the Union, the President linked data center growth to his "energy dominance" agenda — arguing that America's abundant energy resources (natural gas, coal, nuclear) position it uniquely to power massive data infrastructure that other countries cannot sustain as cheaply or reliably.

This White House support for data centers is consistent and supported by Executive Orders:



President Trump declared a National Energy Emergency:

- *inadequate generation*
- *extraordinary threat to America's economy and national security*



President Trump's Executive Order:

- *Directs expedited permitting for energy projects*
- *Review agency actions that might burden domestic energy development*



3 new Executive Orders in July:

- *Promote the American AI Technology Stack and encourage exports*
- *Streamline data center permits*
- *AI used by federal government must be free from ideological bias and social agendas*

President Trump knows that America must keep winning in technological development—for our national security, data security, and future prosperity. We must maintain our leadership, as China is catching up to us. We are thrilled to see President Trump making such technological advance a priority, and we look forward to working with his administration on this critical infrastructure for America's future.

We are hopeful to continue working with Florida towards the same national goals as outlined here. And for Floridians we hope to work with this committee and legislature to make sure that data centers can be part of Florida's economic growth. That effort begins with you voting against CS/HB 1007.

Sincerely,

Steve DelBianco
President & CEO
NetChoice²

NetChoice is a trade association that works to protect free expression and promote free enterprise online.

² The views of NetChoice expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of all NetChoice members.